(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Reliable estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through quinquennial labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organization. Last such survey was conducted during 2004-05. As per last two quinquennial rounds of surveys on employment and unemployment, labour force on usual status basis has increased from 406.06 million in 1999-2000 to 469.94 million in 2004-05 registering an average growth rate of 2.97 percent per annum.

(b) and (c) The Central Government through Ministry of Labour & Employment operates five welfare funds to provide health care, education, housing and recreational facilities to the beedi, cine and certain non-coal mine workers in the unorganised sector. The Employees Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provision Act, 1952, and the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948, are applicable to workers In the organised sector subject to certain conditions. Under these Acts, health as well as old age benefits are available to the workers who are covered under the Act. The Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana was launched on 1st October, 2007 to provide smart card based cashless health Insurance cover of Rs. 30,000/- per annum on family floater basis to BPL families (a unit of five) in the unorganised sector. Other benefits include all ailments and pre-existing diseases, hospitalization expenses, taking care of must of the illnesses including maternity benefit and transportation cost of Rs. 100 per visit with an overall limit of Rs. 1,000 per annumn.

Need to amend Labour laws

1486. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Labour Laws have become ineffective in dealing with the problems of the labour;

(b) if so, whether amendments are being proposed to make them effective in the changed situation created by liberalization, privatization and globalization (LPG); and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (c) The labour laws in India have been enacted for catering to different aspects of labour, namely, social security, occupational safety and health, industrial relations etc. These laws continue to be beneficial to workers as their implementation is secured through respective implementation machineries. Review/updation of labour laws is a continuous process in order to bring them in tune with the emerging needs of the economy. The Bills to amend the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by Certain Establishments) Act, 1988, the Plantations Labour Act, 1951, the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948 have been introduced in the Parliament.